

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~A fibrous~~ In a method of making a filter media comprising a web of thermoplastic fibers, wherein said thermoplastic fibers ~~have been~~ are surface modified by treatment with a gaseous plasma at atmospheric ~~conditions.~~ pressure, the improvement wherein the gaseous plasma is air and at least one gas consisting essentially of He, Ar, Ne, N₂, Kr and combinations thereof.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous filter media~~ method of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic fibers are electrostatically charged.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous filter media~~ method according to claim 2, wherein the electrostatically charged thermoplastic fibers are electrostatically charged by a corona discharge method.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous filter media~~ method according to claim 1, wherein said gaseous plasma is a He/air mixture.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous filter media~~ method according to claim 2, wherein said gaseous plasma is a He/air mixture.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous filter media~~ method according to claim 3, wherein said gaseous plasma is a He/air mixture.

7. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous filter media~~ method according to claim 1, wherein said gaseous plasma is an Ar/air mixture.

8. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous filter media~~ method according to claim 2, wherein said gaseous plasma is an Ar/air mixture.

9. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous filter media~~ method according to claim 3, wherein said gaseous plasma is an Ar/air mixture.

10. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous filter media~~ method to claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic fibers are made from one or more of the members selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, polycarbonates, polyimides, and polyamides.

11. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous filter media~~ method according to claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic fibers are made from one or more of the members selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, polycarbonates, polyimides, and polyamides.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous-filter-media~~ method according to claim 3, wherein said thermoplastic fibers are made from one or more of the members selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, polycarbonates, polyimides, and polyamides.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous-filter-media~~ method according to claim 1, wherein the web is a fibrous layer of melt extruded fibers or filaments.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous-filter-media~~ method according to claim 2, wherein the web is a fibrous layer of melt extruded fibers or filaments.

15. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous-filter-media~~ method according to claim 3, wherein the web is a fibrous layer of melt extruded fibers or filaments.

16-18. Canceled.

19. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous-filter-media~~ method according to claim 1, wherein the web is comprised of carded, airlaid, or wetlaid staple fibers.

20. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous-filter-media~~ method according to claim 2, wherein the web is comprised of carded, airlaid, or wetlaid staple fibers.

21. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous filter media~~ method according to claim 3, wherein the web is comprised of carded, airlaid, or wetlaid staple fibers.

22. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous filter media~~ method according to claim 1, wherein the web is ~~constructed using a fibrous~~ comprised of a layer of melt extruded fibers or filaments and a layer of any one or more of carded, airlaid, or wetlaid staple fibers.

23. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous filter media~~ method according to claim 2, wherein the web is ~~constructed using a fibrous~~ comprised of a layer of melt extruded fibers or filaments and a layer of any one or more of carded, airlaid, or wetlaid staple fibers.

24. (Currently amended) The ~~fibrous filter media~~ method according to claim 3, wherein the web is ~~constructed using a fibrous~~ comprised of a layer of melt extruded fibers or filaments and a layer of any one or more of carded, airlaid, or wetlaid staple fibers.

25-33. Canceled.